

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

5 SEPTEMBER 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba

a. The first reaction to the President's statement on Cuba came last night when one of Castro's spokesmen asserted on television that the current arms build-up was "merely the exercise of a fundamental right" of every country to defend itself, and denied that Havana harbored aggressive designs on anyone. We have so far seen no Soviet comment.

b. Otherwise, Havana's propaganda about an imminent US invasion has momentarily faded into the background with top billing going to the latest accords worked out in Moscow. At last report, however, the military alert was being maintained. [redacted]

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c. Moscow radio has come out in support of Castro's charges that the US is planning intervention and hints at a move to raise the issue in the UN.

d. Meanwhile, Guatemala's campaign for an OAS foreign ministers' meeting to consider ways and means of countering the Soviet pressure in Cuba is having a hard time getting off the ground. So far, only Haiti, Uruguay, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic have shown interest in the idea; the rest appear to be waiting for an indication of our attitude. [redacted]

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For The President Only—Top Secret

e. A pair of Cubans flew a Czech jet trainer into Key West yesterday. The pilot said he was defecting, but his companion, a trainee, expressed a desire to go back. We are awaiting a fuller account.

2. South Viet-
nam -
Cambodia

a. Saigon is getting ready to send Sihanouk a brusque note turning down his invitation to attend an international conference to guarantee Cambodia's neutrality. As now contemplated, the note will argue that his premises for calling such a conference are all wrong, ridicule him for denying that the Communists have made free and easy use of his country's territory to infiltrate South Vietnam, and advance counter-charges of Cambodian aggression.

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b. There is a good chance that if the note is sent Sihanouk will make good his threat to break relations with the Diem government.

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3. USSR

Soviet propagandists are giving the U-2 incident heavy treatment, including threats to take their case to the United Nations. The first reaction to our reply to Moscow's protest is a TASS report taking the line that the US has been "compelled to admit with reservations" that one of its planes had violated Soviet air space.

4. Algeria

The ceasefire negotiated last night is not yet completely effective, but Ben Bella seems to be once again back in the driver's seat. He can be expected to move quickly to consolidate his political position through the elections he has promised to hold some time in the next week to ten days.

NOTES

A. Panama The Chiari government is getting deeper into hot water through its inability to cope with the Communist-led student strike at the University of Panama, now well into its second week.

B. United Nations The Soviets last week promised the Ceylonese they would make an all-out effort to get G. P. Malalasekera (Colombo's [] chief representative to the United Nations) elected president of the General Assembly. We have reviewed the prospects for the voting and are confident that our candidate, Zafrulla Khan of Pakistan, will win handily. []

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D. USSR The four Soviet ships which have been monitoring our nuclear tests in the Pacific are headed for home ports. []

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E. Burundi With the first flush of independence wearing off, the government's none too steady underpinnings are already showing signs of giving way under the pressure of traditional tribal hatreds.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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I.

II.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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